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istration. It can hardly be doubted that the common sense of these almost forgotten students has had much to do with the creation of the German university—which in reality is a state-university—as an institution devoted primarily to social service.

Turning to his special task, the author has devoted a chapter each to the “cameralistics” of Seckendorff, Becher, Schröder, Gerhard, Rohr, Gasser, Dithmar, Zincke and Darjes, following with five chapters (pp. 285-480) on Justi and four chapters (pp. 481-585) on Sonnenfels. The task is well done. The book is the result of much careful research and of much fruitful comparison of contemporary literature and criticism. Of its value as a source-book one may judge from an example: Dr. Small has “compressed the most important sections” of Justi’s *Staatswirthschaft* into 411 numbered paragraphs, filling 62 pages of his volume.

One great lesson is taught in this study of politico-economic thought since the Reformation: the paternalism of the petty principality was the harsh school in which the German people got the decisive trend toward their present distinctive ideals of citizenship and social duty. Out of these ages of discipline has arisen the spirit of collectivism which distinguishes the German state. The author’s opening generalization is sustained by his whole investigation:

“Whether the Germans have overemphasized the collectivistic principle, future centuries must decide. . . . Whether the collectivistic principle is ever beneficially to modify democracy or not, there is hardly room for debate upon the proposition that in sheer economy of social efficiency Germany has no near rival among the great nations. Whether the method of this achievement costs more than it is worth, is an open question. That, in view of what it has accomplished, it is worth understanding, is beyond dispute. The explanation of the German type of success cannot be reached without calculating the significance of the cameralists.”

GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD.

Privilege and Democracy in America. By FREDERIC C. HOWE, Ph. D. (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons. 1910. Pp. xii, 315.)

This work contains an interesting statement of the single tax doctrine. Dr. Howe attributes pretty nearly all of the political and economic ills that afflict the American state to the system of private owner-

ship of land and to the tariff and internal revenue taxes imposed by the federal government. These ills are bound to increase as long as the present system remains. The remedy proposed is the virtual destruction of private property in land by taxing it to the limit of its rental value, together with the repeal of the tariff and all other restrictions upon the absolute freedom of trade and commerce, and governmental ownership and operation of the railroads so as to throw open these highways of the nation to all upon equal terms. This plan, Dr. Howe tells us, may be expected to insure equality of industrial opportunity, stimulate production, equalize distribution by eliminating the nonproducing landlord and securing to the laborer his fair proportion of the fruits of production, destroy monopolies with their attendant evils, and supply the government with such an abundant revenue that with all other taxes abolished the public income would be sufficient to permit vast extensions and improvements in the public service.

Dr. Howe's book is open to the criticisms usually applicable to attempts of this kind to explain complex industrial conditions by reference to a single principle. His discussion is entirely too one-sided. He dwells upon the evils of the present system, without considering its compensating advantages or inquiring whether the evils might not be eliminated without sacrificing the entire system. He says scarcely a word as to how the administrative difficulties that beset his plan are to be solved, or as to whether they can be solved at all. He does not tell us what provision shall be made for those persons who have invested their capital, often derived largely from other sources, in real estate, paying the full present value of the same. And if the confiscatory single tax would destroy private land monopoly and bring the land into productive use, it would also reduce all landholders, rich and poor alike, to the level of perpetual rent—paying tenants, from which condition there would be no escape; but this possibility is not touched upon at all.

These are only a few of the objections that will occur to any one who reads the book. The very clearness of Dr. Howe's statement merely serves to reveal with greater distinctness the defects in the extreme single-taxer philosophy.

J. WALLACE BRYAN.